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LB 171

stations, but this is not a network issue. This isn't the Fox's. This isn't the ABC's. This is Channel 13 that's outside of Kearney, this is the station in North Platte, this is the small station in Hastings, where it is nip and tuck, and they compete against the big people and they compete against the print media who have exemptions for their electricity used to print. They're exempt from the litter fee. We make that on a case-by-case basis. This isn't a brand new issue; it's one that's here every year. I find it unfortunate that Senator Wickersham, you know there's 18 other bills, Senator Wickersham, that spend more money or have more exemptions? But, no, we chose to choose the one that we don't like to make a point of principle that it costs too much money. That's not true. The issue is there aren't many exemptions that come out of the Revenue Committee; this one did. We're very discerning. This isn't even an exemption now. It's a refund, limited for a very short period of time, and we cut the whole thing in half. How many of the other expenditure bills cut their expenditures in half? We also cut out the radio broadcasters and got down to a refund procedure that's the tightest exemption type thing this Legislature has ever done. The other exemptions are you just go and say I'm exempt, and they don't have to prove it to anybody. This one they have to actually pay it up front and then go and convince the Department of Revenue to get a refund. And, I guess, on the bottom line for me is that it may be easy to say we don't care about that, but there are some stations out here that are vital to you and to I and to everybody else that they can have local news, that they can have a local station, and that you don't get everything over WGN, or the Super Station, or all those other stations; that you have a station who now...who may have bought other products, other equipment, are going to have to completely redo everything they have, whether it's worn out or brand new, and switch over in a very short period of time. The opponents have been articulate, but I think there is a good reason and we do it every year. And if you think it's easy to get exemptions out of the Revenue Committee, I'd beg to differ. It's hard to do. This one is for a short period of time and I think that it will go a long way towards making sure that you have some local access to news and information and to get the word out on what you do every day. I'd hope you'd vote for LB 171. I think other people had a chance to talk on the first one, I'd pull my motion. Thank you.